

**S/N 10/643,578**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Applicant:  | Nicholas Leventis, et al.                                 | Examiner:       | John M. Cooney |
| Serial No.: | 10/643,578  | Group Art Unit: | 1711           |
| Filed:      | Aug. 18, 2003   | Docket No.:     | 2416.007US1    |
| Title:      | METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PREPARING SILICA<br>AEROGELS |                 |                |

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**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132**

We, Nicholas Leventis and Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis, declare the following:

1. We are the sole co-inventors of the subject matter claimed in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,578, filed August 18, 2003.
2. We have reviewed the Office Action mailed September 21, 2006 with respect to the above-identified application, the documents cited therein, and the Response submitted herewith, and make this Declaration in support of the patentability of the claims of Application Serial No. 10/643,578.
3. We, Nicholas Leventis and Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis, are two of the co-authors of the journal article: Leventis et al. (2002), "Nanoengineering strong silica aerogels," *Nano letters*, **2(9)**, 957-960 (the "Leventis et al. document"). The other co-authors of the Leventis et al. document, Guohui Zhang and Abdel-Monem M. Rawashdeh, worked under our direction and supervision.
4. Guohui Zhang and Abdel-Monem M. Rawashdeh were students working under our direction and supervision and did not make inventive contributions to the subject matter of the present application.

5. Although Guohui Zhang and Abdel-Monem M. Rawashdeh were named as co-authors of the cited Leventis et al. document, they are not co-inventors of the subject matter claimed in the present application. We, Nicholas Leventis and Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis, are the sole inventors of said subject matter.

6. That the undersigned further declares that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing therefrom.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas Leventis

10/19/07  
Date

cg Leventis  
Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis